

THE PATHWAY TO THE
PROPHET
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

A Beginner's Guide to the Science of Ḥadīth

Authored by

SHAYKH OWAIS NAGRAMI NADWI

Translated & Annotated by

MOHAMMAD ZAHID IBN TARIQ

THE PATHWAY TO THE PROPHET صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

“

...The book at hand is small in size but rich in terms of knowledge especially for beginners who are studying this science...

— SHAYKH DR. IBRAHIM NUHU

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...If you are longing to learn and understand the Science of Ḥadīth in a simple and interesting fashion, then this is the book. The displayed chronicle progress of this science by the author will definitely have many appreciate the unprecedented efforts presented by our righteous predecessors...

— SHAYKH MASHHOOR AL-SUHAIBI

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...The book at hand represents a successful attempt to make the understanding of this science more accessible to the reader and sheds adequate light on a vast range of topics related to its scope of study...

— SHAYKH DR. SAJID UMAR

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I perused through the book of Shaykh Mohammad Owais Nagrami Nadwi and found it to be a valuable introductory text to students to Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth...

— SHAYKH BILAL ISMAIL



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“One of the most prestigious disciplines is the Science of Ḥadīth. The book at hand is small in size but rich in terms of knowledge; especially for beginners who are studying this Science. Thus, I recommend that the student of knowledge should make it a priority. May Allāh make it a continuous charity on the scales of all of those who participated in making this work a reality.”

—SHAYKH DR. IBRAHIM NUHU

“If you are longing to learn and understand the Science of Ḥadīth in a simple and interesting fashion, then this is the book. The displayed chronicle progress of this Science by the author’s great grandson will definitely have many appreciate the unprecedented efforts presented by our righteous predecessors and will solidify the readers’ certitude against the continuous challenging doubts questioning the soundness of the Science of Ḥadīth and the credibility of Sunnah. I highly recommend adding such a masterpiece to our home library.”

—SHAYKH MASHHOOR AL-SUHAIBI

“The Science of Ḥadīth is an intriguing and unique science dedicated to the preservation of the Sunnah, which in turn paves the way towards the fulfillment of Allāh’s promise to preserve the Quran, given how the two go hand-in-hand as the foundation of Islam.

The book at hand represents a successful attempt to make the understanding of this Science more accessible to the reader and sheds adequate light on a vast range of topics related to its scope of study. It represents a successful attempt to introduce the knowledge of the Science of Ḥadīth at a beginner level, and as such will be a useful resource in one’s library.

I pray for this book to be an enabler for the reader to develop a love for Ḥadīth and the Sunnah, and to motivate the reader to advance their journey with the subject.”

—SHAYKH DR. SAJID UMAR

“I perused through the book of Shaykh Mohammad Owais Nagrami Nadwi and found it to be a valuable introductory text for students to Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth. We ask Allāh to accept it from him, record it in his scales of good deeds, and reward all those involved in putting together the English version.”

—SHAYKH BILAL ISMAIL

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TO MY GRANDMOTHER

For being a grandmother in the truest sense of the word, for always being a pillar of love, support, and guidance, and making *duā'* for our success in the dead of the night when the world snored away, and for showing by example what it meant to be a seeker of knowledge that loved the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ. I had promised that you would have this book with you before our next meeting, but Allāh ﷻ wanted to meet you before that and we submit to His Will. May Allāh ﷻ place the rewards from any benefit that this book brings heavy on your scale of good deeds and unite us in the Gardens of Paradise.

—MOHAMMAD ZAHID IBN TARIQ

Foreword

The Prophetic Ḥadīth, in its literal meaning, refers to conversation and speech while technically, the term refers to the Prophet's ﷺ dialogue. On the same note, the narrations that are transmitted by the Companions are also called *ḥadīth*. The noble Companions loved and believed in the Prophet ﷺ so deeply, that while transmitting his speech, they did not alter it nor change it in the slightest aspect (in meaning). That is why whatever they narrate from the Prophet ﷺ is given the same importance as if it were narrated by the Prophet ﷺ himself.

Moreover, scholars set down principles and rules that leave no room for any doubts to arise. They also deeply investigated the lives of the transmitters of *ḥadīth*, so that no questions can be raised. Therefore, the *aḥādīth* that have been authentically narrated have no margin for error. Though, as a precautionary measure, the transmitters' narrations have been thoroughly investigated as well, and different terms have been set accordingly. These terms make it easy to explain how and why there are different narrations regarding the same thing. Technical terms have been fixed for this as well.

For example, the two most distinguished books *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* and *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* have been given the highest rank, and the term *al-Ṣaḥīḥayn* has been affixed to them. The *aḥādīth* that have been transmitted by both these books are called *muttafaq 'alayhi* (agreed upon). Then, different definitions and terminologies have been used to describe the different grades. For example, the types of *ṣaḥīḥ* (sound)

are *ṣaḥīḥ li-dhātihi* (in its essence), and *ṣaḥīḥ li-ghayrihi* (due to other than it). Similarly, *ḥasan*, *gharīb*, *ḍaʿīf*, and other than them; and those who have memorized a large number of *ḥadīth* are given the titles Ḥāfiẓ, Ḥujjah, or other [similar] titles. There is a lot of detail to this.

Shaykh Mohammad Owais Nagrami Nadwi (Former Shaykh al-Tafsīr of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama) has explained these technical terms, expressions, and principles in a very summarized and concise manner. The booklet has been printed in Urdu by the name of *Uṣūl-e-Ḥadīth*, and is also a part of the curriculum at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama. Now, for the purpose of making it beneficial for the general public, a responsible member of the same family, Mr. Zahid Mateen, is translating this book into English with additional details and explanation, and making it more accessible. This is a good initiative that should have been undertaken much earlier. I appreciate this work and congratulate it.

SHAYKH MUHAMMAD RABEY HASANI NADWI

Principal, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow
18 Rabīʿ al-Awwal 1442H

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